

Captain Gould then suggested that the two families might have left New Switzerland voluntarily, since the *Unicorn* had not arrived at the appointed time.

" How could they have gone ? " Fritz asked, who would have been glad to have this hope to cling to.

" Aboard some ship that came to these waters,"

Captain Gould replied; " one of the ships which must have been sent from England or perhaps

another vessel which arrived off the island in, the ordinary chances of navigation."

This theory was possible. And yet there were

many grave reasons to suppose that the desertion of New Switzerland was not due to any such circumstance.

Fritz spoke again.

" We must not hesitate any longer. Let us go and look ! "

" Yes, let us go!" said Frank.

Fritz was just preparing to go down again

when Jenny stopped him.

" Smoke!" she said. " I think I can see smoke rising above Rock Castle."

• Fritz seized the telescope and turned it towards the south; for more than a minute his eye stayed glued to the instrument.

, Jenny was right. Smoke was passing across

the curtain of green, above the rocks
which en-
" closed Rock Castle to the rear,